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# Open for Business

## Royal House of Roast Beef in Methuen Still Serving You!

With most of the country fully open for business, Valley businesses are still slowly opening. We say WELCOME BACK!

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# VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

## William McCann: From Woodstock to Vietnam, A Proud U.S. Army Veteran!

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Bill McCann was born in 1950 in Lawrence, Massachusetts. He grew up in the Tower Hill Section of the city. Bill attended Lawrence High School and transferred to North Andover High School for his Senior Year. He graduated in June 1969 and applied to attend North Adams State College for the Fall of 1969 semester. Most of the following article is written in his own words, in the first person. Bill begins here; during that summer of 1969, we were just enjoying being out of high school, when someone mentioned that there was going to be a music festival, called Woodstock Music and Arts Fair in Bethel, New York.

Myself and four other friends jumped in my friend Kevin McGregor's 56 Oldsmobile on Friday afternoon with windshield wipers that did not work. It was a long ride, but we finally made it and by then the fences were down and it was a free concert. As we walked up the road, I think it was late, Joan Baez was giving some political speech about her husband. On to Saturday we listened to some awesome groups that were just starting to become famous. A couple of highlights were Pete Townsend of The Who, hitting Abbey Hoffman with the butt of his guitar in the head at 3am, Hoffman walked on stage while The Who was warming up. Also, Santana played in the afternoon, Michael Shrieve, the band's drummer brought the crowd of 400,000 to their feet. Shrieve was the second youngest musician to perform at Woodstock, being aged twenty. Last summer just before the 50th anniversary, we went back, reminisced, and placed a paver in the walkway that leads to the new pavilion that was built.

After the weekend, we headed home caked, in mud, and with all the media reports of drugs and such at Woodstock, I was not welcomed back home. My plans to attend college fell through during September of 1969. On December 1st of 1969, I was in the first selective service draft for the Vietnam War. It was a lottery system and my lucky number was 71. I was notified shortly after that, to report to the train station at 5:30am for the train to Boston. I can still remember my parents dropping me off and out of the darkness, Joe Morkeski from the North Andover VFW handed me a shaving kit and wished me good luck. I will always remember that kind gesture so early on a cold January morning.

After arriving in Boston for a military physical, I was inducted into the U.S

Army on January 19, 1970. My MOS, (Military Occupational Specialty Code) which designates what your military job will be, was an 11 Bravo, which meant I would serve in an infantry unit. I left for Fort Dix, New Jersey and completed eight weeks of boot camp (Basic Military Training) there. I had 30 days leave, before leaving for Fort Ord, California for Advanced Infantry Training, earning a second MOS, 11 Charlie, designator for an 81 MM mortarman.

When my AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) was completed I was given orders for Vietnam. I spent another 30 days on leave before shipping out to meet up with my unit in Vietnam. I can remember looking out of the window of the plane flying into Cam Ranh Bay, and the landscape was filled with bomb craters. I looked over at my buddy, John Anderson, and we both had that look in our eyes, as

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# Defund the Police, What Could Go Wrong?

We never could have imagined that we would need to use space in this newspaper to defend this country against the notion of defunding the police. Yet here we are.

After the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hand of abusive police officers, protests and riots broke out across the country. We watched in horror as a police station burned down and the WWII Memorial defaced with graffiti. The message of the rioters was that all cops are racist, all cops are bad, and American mayors should defund law and order in our neighborhoods.

Let's make something perfectly clear, only criminals and those who hate this country want to get rid of the cops. Nobody who loves this country would even entertain the notion.

Without the police, violent drug cartels would run your neighborhood while you and your neighbors cower in fear, afraid to leave your homes. Take a look at the lawlessness south of the border. So many of the police forces in Mexico are on the payroll of drug cartels that most murders go unsolved. That's what the 'defund the police' advocates want here in this country.

These same people also want to close all prisons and let every violent criminal back into your neighborhood.

We find it sad for this country when any police officer engages in police brutality. It's even sadder when someone dies as the result of that police brutality.

Protesters all over this country voiced their concern about "racist" officers and a "police brutality". Their argument is that we cannot have cops who label and stereotype people based on their skin color or the demographic group they belong to.

We agree.

But, we also believe that this goes both ways. What is happening by those who don't want to be labeled and stereotyped is the labeling and stereotyping of police officers, specifically white police officers.

No society can engage in racism as a remedy for racism and survive as a free and peaceful nation.

While we acknowledge that there are individual police officers who abuse their authority and that some are racist, we strongly reject the notion that it is systemic or that the American police officer is inherently racist or abusive. Every legitimate study has proven that.

Nobody hates a bad cop more than a good cop. Bad cops make it harder for good cops to do their job. When investigating a rape or a home invasion, they need the trust of the community to find justice for the victims. They also have to look over their shoulder when calling for backup if there's a bad cop working their shift. In fact, most bad cops are turned in by good cops on their department because they don't want their lives put in jeopardy by a rogue criminal with a badge and a gun.

The American police officer makes great personal sacrifices every single day to protect the people in their community. While the rest of us are enjoying Christmas or Mother's Day with our families, the American police officer is spending time away from his family to stop a domestic abuser, or pulling a 12 year old out of a burning car. Police officers have a high suicide rate, an extremely high rate of injury and disability, and one of the highest rates of divorce.

On top of that they get it from all sides. They get attacked by the criminals, the public, politicians, the media, and are always the target of bad cops on their department.

Yet, every day the good men and women of law enforcement continue to put on a badge and a gun, kiss their loved ones goodbye not knowing if they will ever come home, and go out to protect the victims of violent crime in our neighborhoods.

Nothing exemplifies this more heroically than the six Dallas Police Officers who were murdered in the line of duty in 2016 protecting Black Lives Matter protesters who were literally calling for the murder of cops.

Just think about that.

They died protecting the very people calling for their deaths.

THAT is the American police officer.

Not the four criminals who killed George Floyd. ◊

# MA House Becomes One of the Nation's First to Legislate Remotely

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Over the past few months, the Massachusetts House of Representatives has been wholly focused on addressing the health care challenges and financial challenges of COVID-19. This remains our central focus. The House became one of the first legislative bodies in the nation to develop a system for remote voting, ensuring that legislative affairs could be conducted safely and without interruption. Below is a list of new state laws passed in response to the pandemic:

- Unemployment Supports: this law extends the unemployment benefit period, lifts the cap on unemployment benefits for dependents, and protects employers from penalties for laying off workers due to the pandemic.
- State Fiscal Health: this law allows the state to borrow money to balance the state budget to ensure Massachusetts can continue essential operations during the pandemic.
- Strengthening Local Public Health Systems: this law creates quality standards for local public health services and provides resources to local boards of health to promote efficiency and regional cooperation.
- Virtual Notary Services: this law allows notary services to be provided through video conferencing during the pandemic, ensuring documentation can be completed for important matters related to power of attorney, health care proxies, wills, etc.
- Eviction & Foreclosure Moratorium: this law prohibits all non-emergency evictions and foreclosures during the pandemic, protects tenants from late fees if they miss a rent payment, and grants homeowners mortgage forbearance up to 180 days. It also allows landlords to use a tenant's last month's rent for necessary expenses.
- Liability Protections for Health Care Workers: this law extends standard legal protections to the new health care workers and field hospitals involved in

the COVID-19 response, while upholding patients' rights.
- Postponing Education Deadlines: this law waives MCAS requirements for the 2019-2020 academic year and provides regional school districts with flexibility in preparing their annual budgets. It also redirects funding to critical homelessness needs.
- Restaurant Support & Municipal Budget Flexibility: this law allows cities and towns to delay local property tax deadlines and provides flexibility to cities and towns in preparing their annual budgets. It also delays the state income tax filing deadline to July 15 and allows restaurants to sell unopened bottles of liquor with food purchases.
- Postponing Municipal Elections: this law allows cities and towns to postpone local elections and expands absentee ballot eligibility and early voting by mail.
- Fast Access to Unemployment Benefits: this law waives the typical one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits claims, ensuring fast access to financial support.
- Funding for COVID-19 Response: this law allocates $15 million for the COVID-19 response effort at the state and local levels.

*State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380.* ◊

# Rep. Frank Moran Secures $2M+ for Valley Projects

State Representative Frank A. Moran (D – Lawrence) joined his colleagues in the House to pass legislation authorizing up to $1.7 billion in spending for the improvement of information technology equipment and related projects in Massachusetts.

The House voted for the IT financing package – which also contains key funding for food security -- using its remote voting procedures for the COVID-19 emergency.

State Representative Moran secured more than $2 million for the cities of Lawrence and Methuen through three amendments filed to House Bill 4708, An Act financing the general governmental infrastructure of the Commonwealth. The amendments filed by Representative Moran provide $2 million to the City of Lawrence for municipal network and equipment upgrades, $250,000 to the Lawrence Police Department for upgrades to police cruiser computer technology, and $100,000 to the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Youth Center to bolster its remote learning capabilities for underserved students.

"It is of the utmost importance that our communities are provided with the most up-to-date equipment to meet their ever-evolving needs in this technological age," said State Representative Frank A. Moran (D – Lawrence). "This critical funding will allow the City of Lawrence and its police department, as well as the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Youth Center to be equipped with much needed computer and network upgrades that will last them for many years to come."

State Representative Moran also co-sponsored an amendment filed by State Representative Tram Nguyen to secure an additional $200,000 for the Town of Andover to ensure that all of its municipal buildings are fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"It is of the utmost importance that our governmental buildings are accessible to all of our residents so that their voices are heard, regardless of their physical health," said State Representative Frank A. Moran (D – Lawrence). "I was proud to co-sponsor this important amendment alongside Representative Nguyen to help secure this critical funding so that the Town of Andover is an accessible place for everyone within our community."

The plan includes $650 million in IT needs, including $40 million in education grants to public schools to enhance remote learning environments and services. It also: The capital plan also includes the following:

- $30 million in municipal grants for proper safety equipment for first responders;
- $100 million for capital projects at Health and Human Services facilities to better handle providing amenities throughout the pandemic;
- $41 million for food infrastructure and security needs to the most vulnerable populations;
- $10 million for software/hardware upgrades at community health centers;
- $5 million for SNAP Gap development.
- Other highlights include grants to cities and towns for a number of needs, including expanded access to broadband, library construction, ADA compliance, and other generic capital needs our municipalities might have.

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# Methuen Mayor's Report

*Exclusively for The Valley Patriot*

Neil Perry
MAYOR OF METHUEN

This is the first column I've written since being elected Mayor of Methuen.

I must admit, these first five months have been a wild ride. Who could have predicted that 2020 would be like this? But I'm an eternal optimist, so I believe things are getting and will continue to get better. I intend to use this column each month to discuss a wide variety of topics and set the record straight. As always, I welcome your feedback and even disagreement - respectfully, of course. So, without delay……

During my campaign, I promised the residents independent department audits – starting with the Methuen Police Department, to address resident concerns and to ensure our police department uses best practices in management and operations. I am fulfilling that promise. Recently much has been stated, and rather emotionally, about this audit. To ensure an inclusive and open process, I made sure the City Council's Public Safety Committee joined me in sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP), reviewing the responses, and interviewing the two finalist firms. We all went to great lengths to ensure bias or pre-existing relationships would not compromise the integrity of the report. Together we selected CNA Corp.

When I scheduled a kickoff meeting with the members of the CNA team, I invited Councilor Simard (in his role as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee) and Chief Solomon as head of the department. A heated exchange at City Council and threats to cancel the funding followed, which surprised and disappointed me. I am a veteran of many thousands of audits - internal, external, state and federal agencies and even internationally - and this kickoff meeting was consistent in practice and process with all others in my experience. It was held to discuss how to get going, especially in the face of Covid and accompanying travel restrictions. The meeting went off without a hitch. We discussed, without bias, if and when we could get started, what the timing would be on bringing in a team from out of state, and who would be the point of contact. I want the people of Methuen to be confident that I am taking full responsibility for this process, and therefore I personally will be the point of contact for the audit team.

The Methuen Police Department audit is designed to identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, and restore the public trust in both the department and our government. While this is the first audit, it won't be the last, funds permitting. My FY21 budget will include funds for additional audits.

This police audit will be the unbiased and unvarnished truth, and the citizens of Methuen will get real results. That's transparency. That is my commitment now, as it always has been. I have asked Ed Flynn, head of the audit team, to attend the council meeting on Tuesday, June 9. I hope you get the chance to watch. After hearing from Mr. Flynn, I know you will agree with Councilor Simard and me: we picked the right team to do the audit.

Don't miss the Methuen Mayor's Report on The Paying Attention! Podcast on the first Thursday of each month. VIew on The Valley Patriot Facebook Page or download the audio on Podbean, Spreaker, iTunes, and iHeartRadio.

While I continue to focus on the necessary day-to-day business of the city and move forward the audit and budget, I have to note that we find ourselves in particularly remarkable circumstances. Not only are we in the midst of a pandemic, but we are at this very moment at a critical time in the history of our country. Intolerance on many issues appears to be at an all-time high. Mask versus no mask. Phased reopening versus complete and full reopening. Red versus Blue. All these topics, important though they may be fall far below what should be discussed most importantly and openly: the issue of bias and race in this country.

For the record, I'm a firm believer in the right of every man, woman, and child of any race, creed etc. to equal and fair treatment: "we hold these truths to be self-evident". We can and we must do better to listen to one another, and improve upon the experiences of those who are negatively impacted by discrimination. Racial bias is wrong, and impedes the progress and development of our country. I strongly believe this is the greatest country on earth – but it can even be better. The right of any citizen to peacefully protest injustice is essential to that progress. We must listen to one another, we must have open minds, we must have respectful discourse and act with tolerance.

Over 60 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". I could not agree more. Here in Methuen, I am going to set up public forums on the topic of race and bias and I welcome you to add your voice to these discussions. I want as many citizens involved in the discussion as possible. These are not easy discussions, and they can't, in my humble opinion, be given due attention within social media threads. If we want to make impactful change, we need thoughtful discussion and meaningful plans of action, and I'm committed to making sure that happens in Methuen. If you'd like to be involved, please reach out to my office at City Hall, at 978-983-8505.

On this issue and all others, I recognize that the citizens of Methuen deserve the best representation available to them from their elected officials, and they deserve the truth – the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Stole that last gem from Dragnet. Sometimes it's hard to fully understand everything that is happening, why it's happening, and all the aspects related to it. We live in a world that wants immediate answers, and social media is seen as the quick fix. I get that. But partial truths, filtered on social media or in local

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# Lowell Catholic Awarded Cummings Grant

LOWELL

Lowell, June 2, 2020 - Lowell Catholic is one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants of $100,000 to $500,000 each through the Cummings Foundation's $20 Million Grant Program. Lowell Catholic, a preschool - 12th grade Xaverian Brothers Sponsored school that serves families from across the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process. Lowell Catholic nurtures students by offering a small school atmosphere with big school STREAM based academics, athletic and co-curricular opportunities. LC aims to inspire each student to be independent thinkers and effective communicators who better the world around them through leadership, service and moral character.

Currently, over 60% of Lowell Catholic students receive financial aid and for them, LC serves a critical function ensuring academic and personal success. Because of the Cummings Foundation Grant, Lowell Catholic will be able to support the expansion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) instruction in grades 5 through 12 through a comprehensive set of initiatives. With a vibrant community of learners looking to careers in health sciences, biomedical fields, and engineering, the Cummings Foundation support for lab equipment, technology and professional development will allow students to work towards reaching their full potential.

"This grant will mean so much to the Lowell Catholic community, but especially to our students" remarked Head of School, Maryellen DeMarco. "By encouraging active learning and integrating more technology in the classroom, the Cummings Grant will help fund initiatives that inspire and prepare students to pursue the sciences. It means so much to us that these funds will help provide a sense that goals for the future, especially for our students from lower income families, are not only aspirational, but attainable."

The Cummings $20 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We have been impressed, but not surprised, by the myriad ways in which these 130 grant winners are serving their communities, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19," said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director. "Their ability to adapt and work with their constituents in new and meaningful ways has an enormous impact in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work."

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than $280 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

Social distancing requirements will prevent Foundation and grant winner representatives from convening for a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn, as planned, to celebrate the $20 million infusion into greater Boston's nonprofit sector. Instead, Cummings Foundation expects hundreds of individuals to gather virtually for a modified celebration in mid-June.

The Cummings $20 Million Grant Program resulted from a merger of the Foundation's two flagship grant programs, $100K for 100 and Sustaining Grants.

The Foundation and its volunteers first identified 130 organizations to receive grants of at least $100,000 each. Among the winners are first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that have previously received Cummings Foundation grants. A limited number of this latter group of repeat recipients will be invited to make in-person presentations in the fall, when public health related circumstances allow, proposing that their grants be elevated to long-term awards. Thirty such requests will be granted in the form of 10-year awards ranging from $200,000 to $500,000 each.

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 40 different cities and towns, and most will receive their grants over two to five years. The complete list of 130 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org. ◊

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IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

# DiZoglio Small Business Bills Advance Out of Committee

(BOSTON) – Two bills filed by State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), both aimed at helping small businesses during the COVID-19 emergency, have been voted favorably out of the legislature's Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses and advanced to the Senate for consideration.

One bill, S. 2643, An Act establishing a Massachusetts Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for businesses ineligible for the comparable federal PPP, is designed to assist small businesses ineligible for the federal PPP.

Not all small businesses who are unable to conduct business through the COVID-19 emergency are eligible for federal loan and grant opportunities like the PPP, established in the recent CARES Act. The federal PPP creates a type of emergency loan that effectively turns into a grant when used to maintain payroll through June and expands the network beyond SBA so that banks, credit unions and local lenders can issue the loans. The creation of a comparable Massachusetts PPP loan to grant program is designed to address this inequity by incentivizing federally ineligible MA small businesses to not lay off workers and to rehire laid-off workers that lost jobs due to COVID-19 disruptions.

"I urge the Governor's Administration to put a plan in place to allow these small businesses to operate again with strict safety measures," said DiZoglio. "I ultimately filed this bill as a last resort for the many businesses who remain closed and entirely ineligible for any type of loan or grant assistance from the federal government. These are local families who pay taxes and employ our neighbors. They're going under and we need to do all we can to keep them afloat."

The second bill, S. 2564, An Act to support MassMakers, is comprehensive legislation DiZoglio wrote following over a year's worth of dialogue with entrepreneurs, business owners, and business and community leaders. It touches upon a variety of issues, including the establishment of a Massachusetts Main Streets Office, a MassMakers web portal to assist aspiring start-ups and scale-ups, microbusinesses, and the empowerment of the state's Supplier Diversity Office. It has been endorsed by the Retailers Association of Massachusetts and the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, as well as several local Chambers of Commerce.

"The importance of a healthy small business economy to job creation and growth in Massachusetts cannot be overstated," said DiZoglio. "Our small business community has told us what they need - increased connectivity, streamlined regulation and service delivery, access to knowledge and opportunity, and empowerment to succeed. This bill is a significant step in the right direction regarding these issues."

Of particular note during the COVID-19 emergency are provisions in the bill that establish an online, one-stop shop MassMakers web portal for Massachusetts small businesses.

This web portal would:

1. Provide access to information and toolkits to support and assist small businesses, during not only the pandemic but also our economic recovery and in the years to come.

2. Identify Massachusetts small businesses with a "MassMakers" logo and their local products and services as "MassMade."

3. Help connect local, small MassMaker businesses with local consumers by providing a "Supply Mass, Buy Mass" interactive searchable database for shoppers to find what they need - locally - instead of having to rely on giants like Walmart and Amazon.

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The Valley Patriot is not responsible for, nor do we necessarily share the opinions of columnists and contributors that are published in the paper. Columns, by definition, are opinion pieces.

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## Lawrence C.A.R.E.S "Citizens Actively Restoring Essential Surroundings Helping People + Changing Lives

*Santiago Reyes-Cruz Jr.*

Lawrence MA is a city of immigrants, always was - always will be. A stepping stone for all new coming legal immigrants who wish to pursue their American Dream.

However nowadays, the residents of Lawrence MA are viscously exposed to the negative influence found on social MEDIA, modern music, etc, hence sometimes its residents are led astray to become criminals, teen parents, high school dropouts and much more. It is a toxic wave that has actually affected the entire world-however we should focus on improving our local communities like-Lawrence MA before we ever expect to help around the world.

To combat the foolishness that is being injected into the inexperienced minds of Lawrence MA residents - we sort to -Lawrence C.A.R.E.S- Acronym for "Citizens Actively Restoring Essential Surroundings" Helping People + Changing Lives.

An educational, non-denominational Christian Charity entity aimed to educate its residents on the importance of keeping the city trash free, healthy eating, free credit repair strategies, hiking, camping & much more!

It is an educational & personal work ethic build up strategy; aimed to equip Lawrencians with the tools needed to become Healthier, Cleaner & Safer Citizens for all. The negative influences/ideas that cause youth to become poor in thought, can't be fought against. We just need the proper tools & platforms

Will Lawrence C.A.R.E.S lead Lawrence MA Residents to a New Era? Are the people of Lawrence MA willing & ready for a NEW ERA? A Healthier, Cleaner & Safer Lawrence MA where ALL may once again gather to pursue their American Dream again- does sound like Heaven to me. God Bless America, the World

God Bless Lawrence MA in Jesus's Name ◊

## WEATHER 101 WITH AL KAPRIELIAN

# Hurricane Season

Welcome to June and the start of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season. Also June marks the official start of summer with the summer solstice. The summer solstice marks the farthest north the vertical rays of the sun reach which is the Tropic of Cancer. Also during June the longest day and shortest night of the year occurs. Recapping May we saw a period of cold weather as the Jet Stream tracked to our south.

This put our region on the north side which is the cold side of the Jet Stream. Also, we saw some snow which occurred on May 9th. Due to the time of year and the warmer ground the snow melted as it fell especially on paved surfaces. May 9th this year was not a repeat of May 1977 when a major snowstorm occurred. Due to the heavy and wet nature of the snow, this caused trees and power lines to fall causing numerous and widespread power outages.

After a chilly and cold start to May, along with snow, temperatures started to warm up as we moved into the middle of the month. On May 15th we had a warm and more humid air mass over the area ahead of an approaching cold front.

There was a strong wind field aloft in the atmosphere coupled with the instability in the atmosphere. This resulted in severe thunderstorms to develop with damaging winds. The severe thunderstorms caused a microburst to form over Pepperell, MA at 8:25PM on Friday May15, 2020. A microburst is a narrow downward rush of air from a thunderstorm with a damage swath of 2.5 miles or less. A microburst is not a tornado;the trees fall in a straight line hence it's called straight-line wind damage. When a tornado occurs, there is rotation and the trees that fall are in a circular path.

When trees fall from thunderstorms, the National Weather Service goes out to the location and surveys the damage to see if a microburst or tornado occurred. The following information about the Pepperell microburst are as follows: estimated time 825PM, estimated maximum wind speed 100 miles per hour, path length 0.3 miles, maximum path width 100 yards. A microburst straight line wind damage also occurred on the evening of May 15, 2020 in the Groton and Westford MA areas. Estimated time 8:25PM estimated peak wind 90 miles per hour.

The microburst and wind damage in Groton and Westford was from the same thunderstorm which produced the microburst in Pepperell. In these areas, where the microbursts occurred, the very strong winds caused widespread power outages due to fallen trees and power lines. Due to the extensive damage, power was out for a while in many areas. After this stormy evening the weather quieted down again. May turned out to be a warmer and a drier month compared to April.

By late May many lawns were quite dry. The biggest rains of May occurred on Saturday May 23rd where Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard got over 3 inches of rain. Cape Cod got over an inch. This rain wa,s caused by an upper level and surface low pressure system which passed south of New England. Areas off Cape Cod & the Islands saw very little, if any, rain on May 23rd. High Pressure to the north/northeast of New England blocked the northward progression of this rain. By the end of May the high pressure strengthened in the western Atlantic Ocean. This High Pressure, known as the Bermuda High, gave us hot and humid weather.

The hottest weather so far this year occurred during the last week in May. Many areas had temperatures 85-90. Burlington, Vermont had a high temperature of 95 degrees on Wednesday May 27th. This was the warmest temperature ever in the month of May for Burlington. The last time Burlington reached over 90 degrees in May was in 2017 when it reached 93 degrees. Manchester NH reached 91 degrees on May 27th.

The coolest areas were Cape Cod & the Islands with the southwest winds off the chilly ocean waters which were only in the 50s. On May 28th and 29th temperatures were not as hot, but the humidity levels were higher. Dewpoints rose to 65-70 degrees on Friday May 29th making it feel uncomfortable. Finally with hot weather the last week in May many of us wore shorts and now that June is here I would hope we can put the heavier coats away until fall.

A cold front did move through on Saturday May 30th and brought another very cool airmass from Canada and we ended with cool air and very low humidity on May 31st. A lot of extremes occurred in the weather during May. Stay tuned next month as we will see if these extremes continue in June. Before I close, the forecast for hurricane season is 11-14 named storms. 4-6 of these storms will become hurricanes with winds of 74 miles per hour or greater. One to two storms will become major hurricanes. In the meantime, until next month Stay Safe!!! ◊

# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

Methuen Firefighters Steven Giarrusso, Binh Le, Brian Hall, Frankie Bruno with their masks ready to handle medical calls during the Covid-19 hysteria.

ANDOVER FIREFIGHTER IS A RACIST BECAUSE ... HE'S WHITE

Last month an Andover Firefighter was put on leave after an altercation with one of his neighbors. The firefighter saw someone he did not recognize taking mail from one of his neighbor's mailboxes and confronted her saying he did not know her thinking she was stealing someone else's mail. The problem here is that the firefighter is white, and the person he confronted is not. In this time of hypersensitivity to race, of course, he was accused of confronting the neighbor because she is not white. Just like in the George Floyd, Michael Brown, and Trayvon Martin case the media immediately made it a racial issue even though there is no evidence that race played a part in the confrontation. Now, it's totally possible that this firefighter saw a non-white woman in his neighborhood that he didn't recognize and thought she was stealing someone else's mail because of the color of her skin. But, it's also quite possible that this guy is the neighborhood jerk (we all have one) and was just sticking his nose where it didn't belong. For the alleged "victim" and the media to make this about race only seeks to divide the rest of us just as they do in every case where there is a conflict between whites and non-whites in this country. Those of us who consume this news on a daily basis deserve the truth and the media did a terrible job on this story.

TO CORONA OR NOT TO CORONA

On Memorial Day last month we all turned on our television sets to see the paid actors on CNN scolding people for crowding a beach in Florida and elsewhere, showing videos of the crowd. Actor Chris "Fredo" Cuomo looked into the TV cameras and shouted "Fools! You are all fools! You are going to get people killed by spreading the Coronavirus! You are going to kill grandma and grandpa." Actor Don Lemon told his CNN viewers that those people who went to crowded areas in Central Park in New York were "committing genocide" as he lectured us all on the virtues of staying home to prevent the Coronavirus from spreading. Democrats in Congress told us all the Coronavirus was a death sentence and people need to stay home, wipe down everything they touch, and keep six feet away from other humans. But a funny thing happened the very next day. The video of George Floyd being killed by four cops in Minneapolis made its way onto the cable news airwaves. Suddenly, less than 24 hours after we were all told we were going to DIE if we left the house, these very same actors and politicians were out protesting and encouraging riots in American cities. In the blink of a lie, Coronavirus was no longer a threat, as if the virus has a civil conscience and made the decision not to spread as millions of Americans crowded the streets without social distancing and without masks. Since March I have been telling my readers that the Coronavirus hysteria was all lies and for the first few weeks got attacked quite viciously for it. Now, it's pretty clear I was right. As we go to print on the 14th day since nationwide protests and riots began, we have seen no significant increase in Coronavirus cases and no significant increase in Coronavirus deaths.

THE IRONY OF DAN RIVERA'S STAND ON CORONAVIRUS

To further prove my point above think about the irony of this one. On Friday, June 5th, students are Lawrence High School were denied a real graduation at the Lawrence Veteran's Memorial Stadium because of Mayor Dan Rivera's stand on social distancing to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. These poor LHS graduates had to have a "virtual graduation" on-line. But, at the EXACT same time Lawrence High kids were having their virtual graduation ….. the EXACT Same time …. thousands of people crowded the Campagnone Common in North Lawrence to protest police brutality and wouldn't you know it? Dan Rivera was right there with them, not social distancing, not ordering the police to break up the crowd to "save grandma and grandpa" from the deadly Coronavirus, and actually encouraging people to attend. This should tell you all you need to know about our so-called "leaders" both locally and nationally. They are, and have been, using the Coronavirus for political gain and lying to us along the way. It's time to look at the "facts and data" and open up all businesses without restrictions. After all, if our "leaders" can go out and protest with thousands of people without changing the number of Coronavirus cases, the rest of us ought to be able to go back to work.

METHUEN SCHOOLS AT LEAST $4.5M IN THE RED

Last year the City of Methuen borrowed $4M from state taxpayers to balance their budget after the school department overspent their budget. The year before they overspent their budget by $2.8M. Of course you would never know that if you listened to Councilor Steve Saba, who cries and whines at every meeting about the spending in the police department. And while certain councilors and the Eagle Tribune distract you with talk about police spending they have done absolutely nothing to reign in the out of control spending in the schools. As of the time we went to print the Methuen Schools are now $4.5M in the red. The budget year ends on July 1st and we are still waiting for city councilors to put aside their personal hatred for Police Chief Joe Solomon, stop talking about how much cops spend in gas, and get to the meat of Methuen's financial crisis in the schools.

MAYOR PERRY TO INSTALL CAMERAS, BRING BACK NEOGHBORHOOD WATCH

During his monthly appearance on the Paying Attention Podcast earlier this month, Methuen Mayor Neil Perry revealed that he is going to be fixing up the track at the high school stadium and will install cameras to prevent it from being destroyed or vandalized. Perry also said he is planning on putting cameras in other areas of Methuen where crime is high. This will be welcome news to local activist Linda Soucy, who has been begging the city council for cameras in the Arlington Neighborhood. Perry says he will also be reestablishing neighborhood watches and neighborhood groups in the city to address crime.

SABA LOSES HIS COOL, QUESTIONS PERRY'S INTEGRITY

At a city council meeting earlier this month, City Councilor Steve Saba attacked Mayor Perry's integrity and got visibly angry when he learned that the new team conducting a management audit of the police department had actually met with Chief Joe Solomon. Saba went on and on insinuating that because the management audit team actually met with the chief, that the audit was going to be in the bag and the result will favor the superior officers. He also whined that the mayor promised to have city councilors in on the initial meeting with auditors saying he does not trust the people in Perry's office and that they were going to influence the audit. "Don't ever question my integrity! DON'T DO IT. This audit is going through me and nobody else," Perry said angrily. "Perry explained that the initial meeting with the auditors was to discuss the parameters of the audit (how long it should take, what work will be involved etc.) and wasn't a meeting to discuss details of the audit. Saba then claimed he didn't question Perry's integrity but in the next breath threatened to pull the $90,000 of funding for the audit. It seems like Saba is only mad because he wanted to influence the auditors to give a negative report on the cops and now that they have actually met the chief it's a lot harder to demonize him. Remember, corrupt politicians always accuse others of what they are doing themselves. Mayor Perry has made it very clear that this audit will examine how the police department is managed and will rely on facts and data, not emotions or the influence of city councilors who are looking for the result they want, not the result the auditors find. What's more, Saba dishonestly said at the meeting that in other cities and towns the police officers are put on leave while an audit is being conducted.

That's just a lie. It seems Councilor Saba doesn't know the difference between a management audit and an investigation into wrongdoing. There is no city or town in Massachusetts that puts city workers on leave during a management audit. This guy has been a city councilor for three years; you would think he would know the difference by now.

READ THE CHARTER THE CHIEF DOES NOT MAKE PROMOTIONS

Methuen Councilor Jim McCarty was upset at the last city council meeting when he learned that a police sergeant serving in the military overseas was given a temporary promotion to lieutenant without city

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE

FREDDIE SAYS

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council approval. The council was supposed to vote on a permanent promotion last year when the sergeant was first deployed, but because there were not enough votes to approve the promotion (then) Mayor Jajuga removed the item from the city council agenda. Jajuga then, gave the sergeant a temporary promotion to lieutenant anyway and renewed that promotion without telling the council. So, when Councilor McCarty learned of this last week, he went crazy, accusing the police chief of mismanagement and then erroneously stated that because of this temporary promotion, other officers will also be promoted. It's not surprising that Councilor McCarty still doesn't understand the city charter after three years on the council. He still seems to thinks (or at the very least wants the public to think) that the police chief is in charge of hiring, firing, promoting and demoting officers in his department. He doesn't. Those personnel actions come under the SOLE authority of the mayor, not the chief. Chief Joe Solomon does not promote people. He doesn't fire them. He doesn't even have the authority to discipline them. Only the mayor can do that. But, McCarty has never let the facts get in the way of a good political attack. It's clear he hates Joe Solomon because he was hired by the evil Darth Vader Sharon Pollard more than two decades ago.

MCCARTY VIOLATES COUNCIL RULES WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY

What's worse than McCarty's personal attacks and smears of police officers, is the fact that he attacked some by name in violation of his own city council rules. Councilor Finocchiaro, who often reminds councilors that they cannot mention the names of city employees unless they are given proper notice before the meeting, had nothing to say about McCarty's outbursts. In fact, none of the other city councilors had anything to say about McCarty's personal attacks. This shouldn't surprise anyone since the city council held an illegal meeting last month without giving the public proper notice. Again, not one councilor, not even Councilor Finocchiaro, who prides herself on holding other councilors accountable to the public. Also in the city council rules, it states that when the council chair speaks on an issue before the council he has to pass the gavel to the vice-chairman so that he can be ruled out of order if he steps over the line. Not once since becoming council chairman has McCarty passed the gavel to City Council Vice-Chair Dave Beauregard. Not once did any councilor demand he pass the gavel, not even Beauregard. As vice-chair of the council, Beauregard has ONE JOB. That job is to take the gavel and act as chairman if the chairman wants to speak on an issue, or fill in if the chairman is absent from the meeting. This Methuen City Council is out of control. They refuse to follow their own rules while lecturing everyone else about following policies and procedures. Say what you want about former city council chair Jen Kannan, she followed the policies and procedures.

NOBODY IS ABOVE THE LAW, NOT EVEN THE PRESIDENT … OH WAIT

For the last year we have listened to Democrats in D.C. repeat over and over and over that "nobody is above the law, not even the President of the United States" They said it in unison, as if reading from the same script during the impeachment proceedings of the president. They had their mouthpieces at CNN and MSNBC repeat it over and over. Yet, when riots broke out all over the country earlier this month, most Democrats in D.C. and the actors on CNN encouraged people to commit violence after the killing of George Floyd. Democrat mayors across the country ordered their police officers not to arrest looters and violent thugs causing chaos in our streets. What's worse, Democrats in Congress passed a Coronavirus stimulus bill that included millions of dollars for illegal aliens, who, by definition broke the law to come here. So, do Democrats really care about holding "everyone" to the same standard when the law is broken? Or is this just one more example of situational ethics where it's wrong when Trump does something but not so much for other people?

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If you would be happy here and hereafter, I recommend that you read, study, believe and obey my principles.

HAVERHILL FARMERS MARKET opens Saturday June 27th for the 42nd Season. The Haverhill Farmers Market returns for its 42nd season, starting Saturday, June 27th, and running through October 31st, at 51 Merrimack Street, in front of the Goecke parking deck. The market operates from 9am to 1 p.pm., selling farm-fresh fruits, herbs, eggs, vegetables, delicious baked goods, hummus, local wines, meats, honey, fresh breads, handmade soaps, doggie treats, and much more.

The market will be run in accordance with new state COVID-19 guidelines, including 6-foot social distancing, wearing of masks, hand sanitizer stations, small numbers of customers in market at any given time, no touching of any produce or products, no reusable bags, no pets, no live music, no children unless necessary, and no eating at the market (to-go only). Please be patient with us and our vendors while we all work together to make these guidelines work to keep everyone safe and healthy. We hope they are only temporary, and that in due time we will get back to normal at the Haverhill Farmers Market.

This year our partners and sponsors are the Greater Haverhill Foundation, Team Haverhill, Jordan Financial and Insurance Services, Haverhill Bank, Anna Jaques Hospital, Pentucket Bank, The Lupoli Family Institute of Culinary Arts, City of Haverhill, Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Haverhill, Creative Haverhill, and Early Contractors Inc. If interested in becoming a Haverhill Farmers Market sponsor, please contact market organizer Jeff Grassie at jeffgrassie@yahoo.com to discuss sponsorship possibilities.

In partnership with Community Action, EBT/SNAP cards will be accepted at the Haverhill Farmers Market. This allows the market to provide greater access to fresh local foods while supporting local farmers.

For more information, please visit www.teamhaverhill.org/projects/community/haverhill-farmers-market, find us on Facebook/haverhillfarmersmarket, or e-mail market organizer Jeff Grassie at jeffgrassie@yahoo.com.

STATE DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES

DPH announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1 will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. Residents with questions should dial 2-1-1 from any landline or cellphone. Callers dialing 2-1-1 will hear an automated menu of options. Callers press 2-6 for Coronavirus. Residents can also reach 2-1-1 through a live chat option on the Massachusetts 2-1-1 website.

A new messaging tool, "AlertsMA," will allow residents to subscribe to real-time notifications by texting the keyword COVIDMA to 888-777. After signing up, state and public health officials will send short messages and links to information directly to your cell phone or other mobile device.

The Department of Public Health and your local health organizations are seeking volunteers.

Hospitals, community centers and local clinic health workers are on the front line in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Here are some resourceful links the Department of Public Health has released regarding donations, selling protective equipment, and how your business can assist in manufacturing essential medical items.

To donate goods for use in Massachusetts' response to the COVID-19 emergency use this link.

To provide information about goods you are looking to sell to support Massachusetts' COVID-19 response efforts click here. To adapt your business to produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) visit the mass tech website.

DPH has partnered with the Massachusetts-based Buoy Health on the launch of a COVID-19 Health Web App. This new online, 24/7 resource does not replace emergency medical care but can be used as

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 18

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Your Health with Rick Bellanti

# The Carbohydrates Can Be Healthy

Rick Bellanti
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Most of the nutrients in food we eat daily fall into three major groups; Proteins, Fats and Carbohydrates, altogether these make up macro-nutrients. (You may have heard of counting your Macros in some of the newer keto diet type plans. The body can obtain everything it needs to survive from protein, fats and the right kind of dietary carbohydrates, the Good Carbohydrates.

Carbohydrates are mainly sugars and starches that the body breaks down into glucose (a simple sugar that the body can use to feed its cells). Carbohydrates provide us with energy, spare protein, helps us maintain digestive health. So why do carbohydrates get such a bad reputation in fad diets that tell us to stop eating them?

It's really about the type of carbohydrate you are consuming. That's right, there are two different categories of carbohydrates that we will discuss here. Complex carbohydrates which are found in foods such as starchy vegetables, grains, rice, bread, pasta and cereal and simple sugars such as fructose, glucose, and lactose.

The body will break down most carbohydrates into the sugar glucose, which is absorbed into the bloodstream. As the glucose level rises in your body, your pancreas will then releases insulin. Insulin is needed to move sugar from your blood into the cells, where it now can be used as a source of energy.

Studies from health professionals say between 45 and 55 percent of the calories you consume should come from the good carbohydrates. The best carbohydrates to eat are those that do not raise blood sugar fast or too high, but also provides the best nutrition. Those kinds of carbohydrates that are described as good carbohydrates or low glycemic foods. Good carbohydrates include vegetables, low glycemic fruits such as berries and apples, as well as legumes and unprocessed high fiber whole grains.

You want to stay away from the bad carbohydrates as much as possible, they are highly processed carbohydrates, such as refined breads, cereals, and pastries, that raise blood sugar too high and too quickly. These refined carbohydrates are not only higher in sugar and significantly lower in nutrients and fiber than whole foods, but they also break down more rapidly into glucose and enter your bloodstream far faster than vegetables and other good carbohydrates.

Your body can break down carbohydrates for energy much more efficiently than protein or fat.

Carbohydrates are the preferred fuel source of your body, when you eat foods that contain carbohydrate, your body breaks them down into glucose. The glucose provides fuel for each cell in your body, providing us with energy.

Most fad diets will tell you to skip the carbohydrates, but if you don't eat enough carbohydrates, your body will use protein in your body as an energy source. Keep in mind that protein is needed to build muscle as well as several other functions, but if it is used for energy due to lack of carbohydrates, then protein cannot perform its proper function.

How do carbohydrates in my diet help my digestion?

Fiber is also a type of carbohydrate that is necessary for digestive health. Some fiber is digestible and some is not. Both types of fiber are necessary to help food move through your intestinal tract. As we spoke about this a few columns back, fiber also helps you feel full longer, which helps you avoid overeating.

Watch for common simple carbohydrates added to foods such as raw sugar, brown sugar, corn syrup (especially high fructose corn syrup) glucose, fructose, and sucrose and juice from concentrate. Simple Carbohydrate foods to avoid to start would be, sugary soda, baked goods, breakfast cereals and white bread.

Load up on low glycemic foods, whole grains, fiber rich fruit (some of these are apples, berries, and bananas), leafy greens, carrots and broccoli. Whole grains are also good sources of fiber as well as beans.

Remember, a diet that is focused on eating plenty of good carbohydrates is naturally low in sugar, especially processed or added sugar. When you focus on eating good carbohydrates , you are also avoiding all the hidden sugars that can make us feel sick and may cause us to put on more weight.

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here ◊

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# Methuen Councilors Put on Notice

## "The Line of Defamation Has Been Crashed"

Members of the Methuen Police Superior Officers' Union have hired a First Amendment attorney to investigate and possibly sue Methuen City Councilors (and a private individual) for defamation, libel, and slander.

That individual is former Methuen Town Manager Attorney Bob LeBlanc.

Andover Attorney, Peter Caruso, has sent a letter to members of the Methuen City Council and the city attorney, demanding that they preserve any and all of councilors emails, letters, written documents, and electronic communications to prevent them from being destroyed, lost, or misplaced, as they may contain evidence of defamation against the Methuen police officers and their families.

"To learn more, to see more, our clients have asked that all possible information to substantiate or not substantiate these reputation damaging defamation matters be preserved – and not be destroyed, lost, or accidentally misplaced." Preservation Letter to Councilors May 11 2020

"We are investigating allegations of libel and defamation, invasion of privacy, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and doxing (claims) directly related to the actions of several councilors, both in their official capacities, as well as their capacities as private citizens and other third party individuals," Attorney Caruso's letter to the city council states.

"The line of defamation has been crashed" Caruso told The Valley Patriot.

A first amendment attorney who represents newspapers against defamation and libel cases since 1979, Attorney Caruso said that in this case he seems to be on the other side because he believes the First Amendment has been abused.

"Uninhibited, robust, and wide-open discussions, praise and criticism of Methuen Public Officials doing their job is a protected First Amendment right," Caruso told The Valley Patriot.

"I believe the First Amendment is absolute. The courts and the public, however, do not. A line has been drawn. That line is Truth. For public officials – speaker or writer – they must know what they say is true or have reason to believe it is true – you cannot just make it up. That line cannot be crossed."

"After weeks of review, private and public individuals in Methuen have crashed over and through this defamation line. My years of experience have caused me concern for my clients' reputations."

Asked if he would disclose which elected members of the city council or which private individual(s) are the focus of his investigation, Caruso said revealing that would be premature.

"We will not comment on specific defamatory allegations or individuals. Public meetings, online publications, and media reports are all available to see and hear these defamatory and false allegations."

Caruso said he would not have sent the letter to preserve documents and electronic communications if he did not believe the law had been broken."

Sources close to the Methuen police say that they are tired of being called criminals by elected members of the city council and having their reputations smeared.

"We have to go into court and testify in criminal cases and that's hard to do when you have elected officials calling you criminals, attacking your character and trying to destroy your reputation," one officer said asking to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation from city councilors."

Methuen Mayor Neil Perry says that he will cover the legal costs of councilors as long as the actions they are sued for, are in line with their legal job requirements as elected officials. If at some point it becomes clear that they exceeded their authority the city will not cover their costs.

Shortly after receiving the letter from Attorney Caruso, Councilors Saba and McCarty ramped up their public attacks on members of the police department, even violating their own policies by mentioning specific officers by name at an open meeting and enlisting other councilors to fight their battles.

Councilor DJ Beauregard released a statement confusing the issue by linking possible legal action of slander against the council with "intimidation" over the controversial police contract.

"Personal attacks and unfounded allegations of criminal activity, disclosures of legally protected private information to the public with wanton disregard for the law, all fall outside of the roles public officials and their governing duties," Attorney Caruso stated in a follow up letter.

"As our letter indicates, we are investigating certain statements that exceed any privilege and which fall outside any protected petitioning activity. The actions being undertaken on behalf of our clients are quite the opposite of intimidation – they are measured and controlled, unlike numerous statements by public officials."

City Councilor Jim McCarty said during a campaign forum last October that superior officers' and the chief were involved in a "criminal conspiracy". Also a possible issue for the councilors is the fact that legally protected personnel information about police officers was released to the public by councilors, as well as legally confidential documents that were shared with councilors but found their way onto a fake news blog then widely circulated on Facebook by councilors and their supporters. ◊

# Methuen Police Arrest Two on Armed Robbery, Kidnapping Charges

## Incident is Not Considered a Random Act of Violence

METHUEN — The Methuen Police Department has arrested and charged a man and woman with armed robbery and kidnapping last night.

Eric Deugarte, age 25, of Methuen was charged with Armed Robbery, Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Conspiracy to Commit a Crime and Kidnapping.

Meghan Wood, 24, of Methuen was charged with Armed Robbery and Kidnapping.

At approximately 10:09 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, Methuen Police were dispatched to a home on Oakland Avenue for a report of an armed robbery. Upon officers' arrival, the victim reported to responding officers that he had been robbed by two men and a woman.

The victim reported that he had invited the woman, later identified as WOOD, over to his home. When she arrived, the victim exited his home and was allegedly forced at gunpoint by two males into a white SUV. While in the vehicle, the victim was allegedly physically assaulted, threatened and robbed of his personal belongings.

Ultimately, the victim was allowed to exit the SUV and later called police.

The victim declined medical treatment.

Through a subsequent investigation, Methuen Police detectives determined that Wood had been driving the vehicle during the incident.

A short time later, officers located the SUV and initiated a motor vehicle stop in the area of Tuscany Drive. The two occupants of the vehicle were identified as Deugarte and Wood, and subsequently placed under arrest without incident.

A third suspect is being sought by police and the investigation remains active and ongoing.

The third suspect is described as an adult light-skinned black male with a long ponytail, weighing approximately 155 pounds. Anyone with information about the incident or suspect is asked to call the Methuen Police Department at 978-983-8752.

"We urge anyone who might have further information about this incident to share it with the Methuen Police Department," said Mayor Perry.

"I'm proud of our responding officers for the effort they put into this investigation to help identify the suspects responsible so that they can be held accountable for their actions," said Chief Solomon. "We are determined to find the third suspect and are seeking the help of the community in identifying and locating that individual."

Deugarte and Wood were arraigned at Lawrence District Court and ordered held without bail pending dangerousness hearings scheduled for June 10th. ◊

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# State Owes Cities and Towns $727K for Mandated Early Voting Expenses

## Bump reiterates call for permanent process to fund mandated early voting

Boston, MA – In a letter to lawmakers, State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump called on the state to reimburse communities $727,169.37 to cover the costs of mandated early voting expenses related to the 2020 presidential primary election.

This was the first time that Massachusetts offered early voting in the presidential primary. Bump's Division of Local Mandates (DLM) surveyed city and town clerks to provide an accounting of mandated costs related to that service. In addition to asking the legislature to reimburse municipalities for these expenses, she urged the body to create a permanent process to fund this service.

"Early voting has already proven to be a valuable addition to our democratic processes; establishing a formal procedure to fund the expenses incurred by our municipalities will make it that much stronger," Bump wrote.

In 2017, Bump's office determined that parts of the early voting law are unfunded mandates on cities and towns. The mandate determination cited requirements that municipalities establish an early voting polling location that has sufficient staffing and privacy for voters as the factors driving the conclusion. As a result, since 2016, cities and towns have been reimbursed over $2 million to cover these mandated expenses. Thus far, the legislature has not allocated funds to cover mandated municipal costs associated with early voting in the 2020 presidential primary election.

Election-related spending is one of the areas Bump's office most frequently takes action related to unfunded mandates. Since 1984, election-related mandate determinations and certifications from Bump's office have resulted in more than $32 million in state allocations to cover mandated municipal costs.

Local Communities received:

| | |
|---|---|
| LAWRENCE | $4,437.91, |
| METHUEN | $2,000.00 |
| HAVERHILL | $4,953.84 |
| NEWBURYPORT | $2,099.11 |
| SALISBURY | $1,482.00 |
| DRACUT | $1,050.93 ◊ |

TEEN TALK WITH ABBY

# Thank You PMA

By Abigail Juknavorian

On the sunny, warm morning of May 30th, 2020, around 40 Presentation of Mary Academy Seniors lined up in their cars at St. Basil's Seminary along with their families. Soon, these graduates would be escorted by the Methuen Police over into their school where they drove around the campus, cheered on by the amazing staff who handed them goodies, and shouted words of congratulations until they pulled up to the front of the gym building, named the Dupre Center. Once there, the students got the chance to put on their caps and gowns and receive their diploma from principal Rose Marie Redman and take photos with their families. I was extremely lucky enough to be one of these students.

It is no secret that COVID-19 has hindered the graduation plans of millions of students across the country and all over the world. From kindergarten to college, everybody has lost the chance to celebrate these milestones in their lives. For the students at Presentation of Mary, this graduation however was an especially tough one. For over 60 years, PMA has been a staple school in this community.

Back in October of 2019, it was announced to students and families that at the end of this school year, PMA would sadly be closing its doors for good. After a long and crazy year filled with over a month of no heat during the cold winter to what was supposed to be a two-week break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we students at Presentation have had our fair share of a crazy year.

The loss of the usual senior week leading up to prom and then graduation was a really hard loss for a lot of students in this city, but it was an even bigger loss for the students at PMA. It was really difficult to fathom the idea that after four years at a school we all loved, we wouldn't, not only be able to walk across that stage and receive our diplomas, but also not have a school to come back to and visit in the fall if need be.

Despite the troubles that the Presentation of Mary Academy faced, we remained positive and loving through it all. I remember back in the fall when we all came to school the day after we found out we were closing. The halls were littered with sticky notes and posters reading out words of love and encouragement. This modern, socially distanced graduation was no exception in terms of the overwhelming amount of love and support we have received from our little PMA community.

The drive-in graduation was honestly one of the best, most uplifting experiences I have ever had. It really showed how much the school community really cares about us and our happiness.

While we hope to have a real graduation later this July, I know that I will never forget this incredible experience. PMA has made me the person I am today. What makes me the saddest is that I know others won't be able to experience the amazing high school career I have had at PMA, but I know that it will live on in all of our hearts and minds forever. Thank you, PMA. Go Panthers!

During this difficult time of civil unrest in the country, it is important to support those who need it the most. To learn more about and donate to the Black Lives Matter movement, visit https://blacklivesmatter.com. Be the change you want to see. ◊


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# Haverhill Council Signs Off on Outdoor Dining Plan for Restaurants

John Lee Grant
WHAV.NET

Phase two of the state's COVID-19 reopening plan is less than a week away and area restaurants are anxious to start serving customers again.

To that end, the City Council, last night, approved a temporary plan regulating outdoor dining in Haverhill. The plan, which was developed in consultation with several local restaurant owners, addresses guidelines for acceptable physical distancing for customers and employees.

Under these guidelines, eligible businesses will be allowed to expand seating into off-street parking logs, sidewalks, boardwalks and other areas

In order to institute outdoor dining an establishment needs to fill out an application, which Mayor James J. Fiorentini says is available now on the city website, cityofhaverhill.com.

"Now if they don't serve alcohol, it's really simple. Inspectional services goes down. We'll inspect to makes certain that they are properly socially distanced. The tables have to be six feet apart, make certain that it is safe. Assuming that all of those things are met, they'll get a permit on the spot. That's all there is to it," he said.

If a business does serve alcohol, state guidelines require them to be approved by the License Commission which, the mayor said, will review the application within five days.

In the end, the council passed the plan by a vote of 8-0 with Councilor Michael S. McGonagle absent. ◊

# Illegal Alien in Lawrence Sentenced for Fentanyl Distribution

BOSTON – A Dominican national previously residing in Lawrence pleaded guilty and was sentenced today for distributing fentanyl.

Enel Alfredo Mendez-Aquino, 30, pleaded guilty to distribution of fentanyl and was sentenced by U.S. Senior District Court Judge Mark L. Wolf to 12 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Mendez-Aquino will face deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence. Mendez-Aquino was indicted by a grand jury on Aug. 1, 2019.

On June 11, 2019, federal agents observed Mendez-Aquino throw objects into a SUV parked on Abbott Street in Lawrence. During a subsequent stop of the SUV, the occupants of the vehicle admitted that they had just purchased drugs from Mendez-Aquino. Law enforcement officers arrested Mendez-Aquino, who has been in custody since. A lab test confirmed that the drugs were fentanyl and cocaine.

This case is part of a coordinated enforcement operation in the Merrimack Valley called "Devil's Highway." The operation targeted the distribution of opioids, including fentanyl and heroin, and resulted in charges against a total of 40 people for federal drug offenses, with at least a dozen more individuals facing state charges.

United States Attorney Andrew Lelling and Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lucy Sun prosecuted the case. ◊

PERRY: FROM PAGE 3

newspapers do not get us to the level of understanding needed. That's why I continue having regular open and honest conversations with residents, both in person and on my regular TV/Facebook/Podcast live appearances with Tom Duggan (first Thursday of every month) and on MCTV (airing live every Wednesday & Thursday at 5pm).

When necessary, I will set the record straight, and I need to do that on one issue today. Several city council meetings ago, I announced that Methuen would face a revenue shortfall in FY 21 of some $6-7M. A local paper headlined the next day that Methuen had a budget deficit of $6M and from there, the social media pundits opined regarding the mismanagement, greed and corruption that resulted in it; only, one thing was left out - there is no deficit. Methuen is predicting a revenue shortfall - as are the other 350 cities and towns across the Commonwealth – because state revenue to the city will not be as much as originally forecast due to the effect of Coronavirus. This is not a mismanagement issue. Not a corruption issue. Not even a Methuen issue. The residents asked me to deliver fiscal responsibility, and I am proud that despite all of the challenges, I have worked with department heads across the city to ensure that Methuen will finish FY20 in the black. We have done the hard work to be fiscally responsible, and reporting or commenting otherwise hurts our city and its residents.

The lesson: fact check before you react, to any article or information – especially on social media. As I stated in my inaugural and stand by it – seek first to understand. My commitment to you, the citizens of Methuen, is to always do the right thing. Always. You may not agree with some of my decisions, and that is your right, but I'm happy to have any citizen come and talk to me – face to face, anytime. I work for you.

In closing, know that though the days are long and the tasks are many, I love and truly appreciate being your mayor. I am spending much of each day working hard on the budget, and will be fully transparent with what we propose. If you want to know how you can help, please reach out to Congresswoman Trahan and Senators Warren and Markey and let them know how important it is for your city to be able to use the CARES Act funding towards revenue shortfall – because right now it cannot be.

I love my hometown, and I'm working each and every day to make it better for all of us. If you have an idea, or a topic you'd like to discuss, or you'd like to see in a future column, I'd love to talk to you. So reach out and call my office or, as things start to re-open, make an appointment and come by for a chat. In the meantime, stay safe, and take care of each other.

# Three Good Reasons to Support the MassGOP

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

1. There's a strong and conservative leader at the helm.

Since his election as MassGOP Chairman last year, Jim Lyons has grabbed the elephant by the tusks, cleaning up the mess he inherited and working to right the proverbial ship. As soon as he took over, Lyons launched an administrative review and financial audit of the MassGOP, shining a spotlight on the past spending practices of his predecessor, Kirsten Hughes, and implementing a number of financial and procedural reforms as a result.

In the two years before her departure, Hughes and the guys from Gov. Charlie Baker's campaign, who were running the MassGOP for years, spent big money from party donors. The gang blew $100,000 at fancy restaurants, including more than $30,000 at top steak houses, $164,000 on parking fees and $18,000 for Uber rides, among other things.

With Lyons at the helm and the State Committee finally able to get their hands and their eyes on the party's financials once again, the days of medium rare ribeye steaks have gone up in flames. It's more of a conservative, brown-bag lunch mindset these days and the priority is getting Republicans elected.

2. The State Committee is united and focused.

In addition to supporting Lyons on a number of initiatives last year, including the financial audit, moving GOP headquarters and changing the delegate selection process for the Republican National Convention, State Committee members are solidly behind his efforts to ensure donations are spent to support GOP candidates and their campaigns, not on fine dining and other very questionable expenditures.

Lyons came out a big winner as a result of the state committee races that were held on the Presidential Primary ballot in March. Despite public promises to fight for control of the 80-seat committee, Baker's camp only managed to challenge about half the seats. And despite spending big money on political mailers and advertising funded by a Baker-backed PAC, the establishment lost ground and Lyons picked up about 10 more supporters on the state committee.

After the election, Lyons was unanimously affirmed party chairman by a vote of the State Committee. Not one member objected.

3. Republican candidates are challenging the radical Democrats.

Thanks to Lyons and the recruitment efforts of the MassGOP, Republicans are challenging Democrats on Beacon Hill, especially in winnable districts. Eight Republicans are running for state senate and 55 are running for state representative. In some districts, like the one Lyons used to represent in the legislature, Republican interest is so strong there will be a GOP primary between Jeffrey Dufour of Tewksbury and Shishan Wang of Andover for the 18th Essex seat currently held by Tram Nguyen. In the 19th Middlesex, Republican Alec DiFruscia of Tewksbury is challenging first-termer David Robertson, a Democrat who won the seat by less than five percentage points two years ago.

Republican candidates in Massachusetts will also be challenging the radical Democrats for their Congressional seats in the 2020 election. It can't happen fast enough, based on the group of far-left, tone-deaf incumbents. Across the state, GOP candidates with messages of change, accountability and support for President Trump will be going head-to-head with these useless seat-warmers.

You do have Republican choices this year, even in allegedly deep-blue Massachusetts:

- Tracy Lovvorn is running against Jim McGovern in the Second Congressional District.
- David Rosa and Julie Hall will face off in a party primary in the Fourth Congressional District, for the seat being vacated by Joe Kennedy.
- Caroline Colarusso is challenging Katherine Clark in the Fifth Congressional District.
- John Paul Moran is running against Seth Moulton in the Sixth Congressional District.
- Helen Brady is taking on Bill Keating in the Ninth Congressional District.

Tired of the same old story in Massachusetts and Washington, DC? Vote Republican!

— Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex and Middlesex district of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ◊

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# Northern Essex Registry of Deeds

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Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## ANDOVER

Taylor Cove Development LLC, Gerald B & Donna M Mohan, $755,000, 28 Taylor Cove Dr Unit 14

Christopher W & Stephanie M Deady, Daryn D DeCesare & Lindsay J Leavitt, $1,425,000, 62 Porter Rd

JW South Street Realty Trust & Judith E Wien Tr, Forever Endeavor LLC, $600,000, 1323 South St

TacticianRealty Trust & Anthony buxton Tr & R Robert Reading Tr, 305 North Main Street LLC, $4,600,000, 305 North Main St

Artem Tokarev & Olena Tokareva, Harry Chun Kwan & Mil Yun Kwan, $415,000, 174 Haverhill St Unit 315

Robert Nevers Cratty/Robert N Cratty , Tyler M Prince & Rachel W O'Connor, $620,000, 139 Chestnut St

R & M Muirfield Realty Trust & Richard T Hyslip Tr & Martha A Hyslip Tr , Peter J McCarthy Tr & Sandra McCarthy Tr & Peter J McCarthy 2018 Revocable Trust &Sandra McCarthy 2018 Revocable Trust, $1,025,000, 7 Muirfield Cir Unit 2-1

Sangyup Song & Eunjoo Kim, Cary & Eamon Duane, $665,000, 167 Woburn St

Central Funding & Equity LLC, Michael Robert Cook Jr & Ashley Christine Cook, $450,000, 115 Elm St

Brian& Maegan Johnston, Colleen Elizabeth Farrell, $440,000, 43 Lowell St

Maureen L Donohue Tr & William B Donohue Tr & Donohue 2014 Family Trust, Sarissa Masucci & Kenneth Mulligan, $320,000, 135 North Main St

Jorge Yacubowicz, Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, $269,900, 13 Webster St

Mircea N Tamas/Mircea Tamas & Dana M Tamas/Dana Tamas, Sreshta & Rama K Jonnalagadda, $275,000, 3 Longwood Dr Unit 104

Margo L Guzowski Est & Michelle A Litavis & Danielle C Volpe, Eric J & Leah Soll, $645,000, 1 Mohawk Rd

Michael H Sutton, Justin R Allen, $179,700, 450M Brookside Dr Unit 450M

Kathleen L Wilson Est & Nicholas Forgione, Bruno Martins & Michelle Janine Da Silva-Martins, $660,000, 19 Mohawk Rd

157 Pleasant Realty Trust & Ralph Girolamo Tr, 36 Highvale Investments LLC, $1,575,000, 36 High Vale Ln

Phillip W D'Annolfo/Philip D'Annolfo & Mark D'Annolfo/F Mark D'Annolfo, Paul J St Hilaire Tr & Village Realty Trust, $1,350,000, 2 Frederick Dr.

Christine Muller Tr & J Jeffrey Boshar Tr & J & G Boshar Realty Trust, Russell D H & Kristen L Stott, $655,000, 138, 144 Holt Rd

Frederick E Teichert III & Jeanne Teichert, Xiaoli Liu & Haifei Li, $480,000, 5 Dufton Rd

Matthew & Jessica Guba, Peter & Sarah Fenzel, $504,442, 16 Rocky Hill Rd

Paulla Wales Brown, Weston Wang & Siu Shan Wang, $355,000, 170 Haverhill St Unit 136

Twin Birch Development LLC, Mukul & Kavita Goyal, $1,414,500, 8 Monarch Ln.

## LAWRENCE

CHLOE LLC, Antonia Cardona, $435,000, 103-105 Chester St

Eric Charles Fay, CHLOE LLC, $355,000, 103-105 Chester St

Paul Nartiff Jr, Lam P Bui & Ai T Le, $328,000, 21 Lenox Cir

Chien Nguyen, Paul M Allain & Steven A Fairbrother, $443,000, 64 Bigelow St

Kailish LLC, Santo Dimino, $438,000, 58 Beacon St

Paul Nartiff Jr, Lam P Bui & Ai T Le, $328,000, 21 Lenox Cir

Aura Gonzalez, Mohamed Oubaqui, $134,500, 270 East Haverhill St Unit 11

637 Andover Street Realty Trust & Jay M Paiva Tr, Castaway Realty LLC, $1,475,000, 637 Andover St

Eduviges Hernandez, Eduvuges Diaz & Carlos E Rozon, $445,000, 83-85 Springfield St

Pedro & Melinda C Reynoso, Josue Nazario, $444,900, 73-75 Sunset Ave

Alejandro Rios & Faviola Ortiz/Faviola E Ortiz, Jose Angel Ortiz-Luaces, $505,000, 46-48 Marble Ave

Clarisa & Junior Duran, Vianchi Luciano, $485,000, 109-111 Abbott St

William Polanco & Brigida Lopez, Carlos Miguel Cruz Rivera, $413,000, 98 Myrtle St

Multigrains Realty LLC, J & S Investments Lawrence LLC, $7,525,000, 117 Water St

Concepcion Paredes, Rebeca Batista & Jose M Batista Espinal, $480,000, 51 Railroad St

Victor Perez, Glenny Pena, $404,000, 47-49 Howard St

Felix D Benitez & Felix D Benitez Jr, FRIBA LLC, $402,000, 231 Jackson St

Felix D Benitez & Maribel Montanez, FRIBA LLC, $400,000, 17 Saxonia Ave

Rothmany Rom & Ruon Poch, Norma E Guevara, $275,000, 64 Nesmith St

Katelyn M Harris, Angel Diaz, $320,000, 41 South Bowdoin St

Tuan Duc Phan, Britos Management LLC, $850,000, 122-126 South Broadway

Jessie M Cruz, Henry Sanchez, $185,000, 26 Hudson Ave Unit A

Wetherbee Properties LLC, Victor E Arguedas, $505,000, 5-7 Kingston St

Waterford Realty Trust & Robert A Norcross II Tr, Cesar Paula & Cesar H Paula Javier, $380,000, 42 Summer St

Girard Francois, Miguel Cuevas, $342,000, 127 Garden St

Matthew W & Heather K Guay, James Third LLC, $210,000, 36 Rollins St

Sunnybrook Development Inc, Elliot Rojas, $590,000, 2-4 Logan St

Juan Montero, Felix O Ortiz Feliz & Maria Y Ortiz & Jackeline Ortiz, $450,000, 27-29 Jennings St

Jose C De Los Santos & Nataliz M Matias, Angelica M Calcano, $400,000, 4 Katherine St

Mary E & William D Fitzgerald/William E Fitzgerald & Ann G Newcomb Tr/ Ann Fitzgerald Tr & Express Trust, Valdez Enterprises LLC, $225,000, 35 Nesmith St

Victor Frias Jr, Maria Duran & Francisco Gabriel, $199,900, 159 Andover St Unit C

Springfield Brook LC, Kimball Springfield LLC, $795,000, 43-45 Springfield St

Kedi L Rosario & Maria A Rosario, Alejandrina Taveras De Guzman & Martin Guzman Acosta, $480,000, 62-64 Water St

Jason A & Priscilla B Sabatino , Juan O Vasquez Frias, $472,300, 42-44 Springfield St

Silva Management & Acquisitions LLC, JenniferPeralta & Diego F Brito, $470,000, 274-276 Salem St

Alberto Santana, Cruz Carpio & Marino Carpio Rodriguez, $425,000, 18-20 Pleasant Ter

Claudio Yeme Luisen & Lucia Castillo Astudillo , Thuc Minh Trinh & Van T Nguyen, $152,000, 48-50 Manchester St Unit 1

Hector Sanchez & Isabel Tejada, Ramon B Sanchez, $425,000, 254 Farnham St

Chanel R & Doris L Vachon, Kevin Michael Sullivan, $370,000, 41 Gilbert St

Makeover Pros LLC, Bulent Barut, $351,000, 50 Thornton St

Francisco & Gladys M Santiago, Amaurys Marmolejos, $250,000, 78 Jamaica St

David M McCarthy, Eridania Arias, $375,000, 150 Willow St

Alex N Dominguez & Alba R Nunez-Dominguez, Jeannette Aguirre & Joseph Guzman, $355,000, 84 Mount Vernon St

Daniel G Ramirez, Luis Guerra, $308,000, 5 Shawsheen Rd

Kenneth H Bilich, Antonio Betances & Jillian Carver, $307,000, 23 Woodland Ct

3-5 Water Street LLC, Hoehn Family Realty LLC, $225,000, 3-5 Water St

Lorenzo Building LLC, Lawrence Investor Group LLC, $2,300,000, 599 Canal St

Jesus J Bueno & Miralva Pagan, Norys J Ortega, $600,000, 63-67 Warren St

Rafael Mejia, Edwin Jose Rodriguez Torres, $315,000, 5 East Pleasant St

Reyes Tapia, Jose Rafael Cruz, $250,000, 28-30 West Beacon St Unit 2

Randol E Gomez, Luis M Frias, $155,000, 137 Arlington St Unit A

Jose F Xavier Tr & Zelia Xavier/Zelia F Xavier & Xavier Family Realty Trust , 75-77 Springfield Street LLC, $1,000,000, 177-183 Chestnut St

Jay Development Corp, Erick Polanco, $570,000, 11 Tyler St

Carlos Cameron Torres & Yoed Cameron Santos, Alexander & Ayuna Case, $425,000, 15 Wood Ln

Daher Group Inc, Luis A Santiago, $370,000, 8 Hofmann Ave

Richard Diaz & Sandra Del Cid Juarez/ Sandra Marisol Diaz, Jorge L Aponte &

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# Black Lives Matter Holds Peaceful Protest in Lawrence

In the wake of the George Floyd killing at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers, protests and riots broke in more than a dozen major cities.

Nearly two full weeks after George Floyd's death, the radical anti-police group Black Lives Matter held two rallies in Lawrence on the Campagnone Common.

Both the Friday and Sunday night protests were peaceful with a few thousand people crowding the common calling for various changes in the criminal justice system.

Each speaker had a different message including defunding the police, more funding for education, an end to racism, an end to police brutality, a toppling of our government and one, with a message of peace and love.

"The purpose why we are here is to standup against police brutality. We are here not to point fingers, our enemy is not one person, our enemy is not the people you see around you it is an idea and a feeling and a process we need to change to loving each other. If we come here to push out our anger it will just add to the chaos around us," said Santiago Reyes-Cruz Jr. of Lawrence.

Friday night I was at the protest with the youth of Lawrence, Massachusetts, a lot of people were not there because they were afraid, they wanted violence, there were helicopters around us, the Eagle Tribune along with other people were there trying to spark some sort of violence, but guess what, we didn't see violence in Lawrence. We shut them up and we did not see violence Friday night."

"The vision of Lawrence is an example of love."

During the Sunday night protest there was only one instance of violence when a homeless man threw a projectile at police and was immediately tackled and taken into custody.

The rally was initially supposed to turn into a march up Broadway through Methuen and into Salem, NH. Businesses in Lawrence, Methuen, and Salem boarded up windows and barricaded doors in anticipation of violence.

*Santiago Reyes-Cruz Jr. of Lawrence says the city is about love.*

The Rockingham Mall, a full ten miles away closed early Friday night and had all stores with outside doors to barricade them.

Santiago Reyes-Cruz Jr. said during the rally that more resources need to be spent on educating the youth of the city and promoting what's good about Lawrence.

Only two arrests were made during both nights of protest. ◊

Yasilis E Rijo Rondon, $365,000, 305 Water St

Edwin Aponte, N & J Properties LLC, $275,000, 6 Park St

Jeremiah Seymour & Henri J Seymour Est, Juana Emilia Vasquez De La Cruz, $263,700, 521 Andover St

Sharyn L Ruprecht & Hope Ruprecht, Andrew DiStefano & Robert Scalia, $240,000, 42-44 Exeter St

Lexjim LLC, Paul Segura, $315,000, 36 Gilbert St

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Mary M Payette, Yohan & Selen Hernandez, $365,000, 18 Madison St

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Peter P & Stephanie M Soares, Juan Camilo Cornier, $420,000, 126 Haverhill St

David A Holland, Jacob M Sosa, $275,000, 23 Tyler St

Maria Cayer, Laura & Kevin Bergeron, $156,200, 33 Huntington Ave

North Shore Real Estate Solutions LLC, Thao C Nguyen & Thuy Hoang Vy Nguyen, $490,000, 23 Stevens St

Homes At Great Oaks LLC, Mark & Christine Neira, $700,000, 7 Tucker Ter

Toll MA Land III LP, Dorothy Vannah, $597,165, 24 Phoebe St Unit 133

Mohammed G Uddin, Julia A Lantigua, $574,500, 8-10 Lawrence St

Lidia Disla, Miguel Angel Chevere Lopez & Rosa Reyes & Deivy Rodriguez, $477,000, 163 Oakland Ave

James A & Dianne Moore, Elias Elachi & Clara J Saade, $456,000, 60A Cox Ln

Stephanie Laura Jones, Geoffrey A Poster & Chelsea Lepkowski, $365,000, 20 Milk St

Fernanda M Pina & Dolores P Turcotte, Raquel A Betances & Rosanna R Guzman, $327,000, 31 Milk St

Fernando Medeiros, Said Mounib & Charifa El Ambri, $317,500, 16 Norgate Rd

Joseph W & Lia U Ingaharro, Robert M Anderson & Stephanie M Davis, $295,000, 32 Laurel Ave

Teresa K Lane Mahoney, Allen LLC, $282,500, 156 Bay State Rd

Homes At Great Oaks LLC, Kruti Patel & Harshadkumar C Patel & Aakash H Patel & Azad Patel, $599,900, 10 Tucker Terr

Diane M Richards, Essex Management & Realty Property Inc , $342,500, 139-142 Lowell St

Steven L Shapiro, Jose A Rolon, $254,500, 36 Adelaide Ave Unit B

Riverside Drive LLC, Dorothy J Taylor, $237,500, 34 Burnham Rd Unit 101

Rivers Edge Properties LLC, Esperanza Caimares, $220,000, 175 Pleasant Valley St Unit D

Regis H Pellitier, Abreu Construction Corp Tr & Abreu Construction Realty Trust, $180,000, Lyndale Ave

Maureen Lira, Quira Gangi, $205,000, 61 Constitution Wy Unit 61

Jorge Recinos Lopez, Saule E Gomez, $629,000, 471 Lowell St

Brian Lundy, Stephen J Ramunno, $347,000, 21 Huntington Ave

Ellen M Izzi/Ellen M Marchand & Thomas A Marchand, Azores Wholesale Limited LLC, $200,000, 64 Lowell St

Laila Amin Tr & Alasmar Family Trust, Ravinder Kaur & Sukwinder Singh, $615,000, 38 Mary Lou St

Toll MA Land III LP, Joel H & Erlinda Parks, $612,780, 18 Phoebe St Unit 136

Julie B Dorfneilsen Tr & Spennat 2018 Trust, Joe & Elaine Stellberger, $413,000, 9 Marshall St

Noureddine & Touria Mhal, Christopher Francis & Felisha Theodat, $399,000, 21 Pearl St

Juan Diaz Vargas, Ivan Sanchez, $360,000, 34 Lippold St

Sean E & Susan Flynn, Ali A Slim & Amal Kannan, $320,000, 22 Alton Rd

Homes At Great Oaks LLC, Ripal K & Dixita R Patel, $690,000, 15 Tucker Ter

Silenny & Federico M Rodriguez, Sendi P Lopez Cardona & Marcos A Maldonado de Leon, $506,000, 208-210 Tenney St

Toll MA Land III LP, Michael A & Patricia C Giampa, $511,438, 16 Phoebe St Unit 137

Beverly S Tibbetts/Beverly S Geyer, Henry A Badia & Marisol Fabre, $450,000, 18-20 Pleasant St

LBR Lynbrook Realty LLC, Richard Fedrick & Janine Frederick, $519,900, 8 Lynbrook Rd

constance M Childs, Jordan McCusker & Mia Carbone, $325,000, 23 Elmwood Rd

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Fadi A & Hanan G Chahine, Marietherese Chahine, $291,000, 86 Elmwood Rd

Higgins Family Trust & William Gary Higgins Tr, Esverne Emmanuel, $280,500, 95 Lowell St

Mailan Thi Nguyen, Jose M Carvalho Correia, $265,000, 30 Birchwood Rd

Beshara Irrevocable Family Trust & Robert E Beshara Tr & Jeanne M Lannon Tr, Heidi M Lavoie-Knipe, $215,000, 45 Christopher Dr Unit 94

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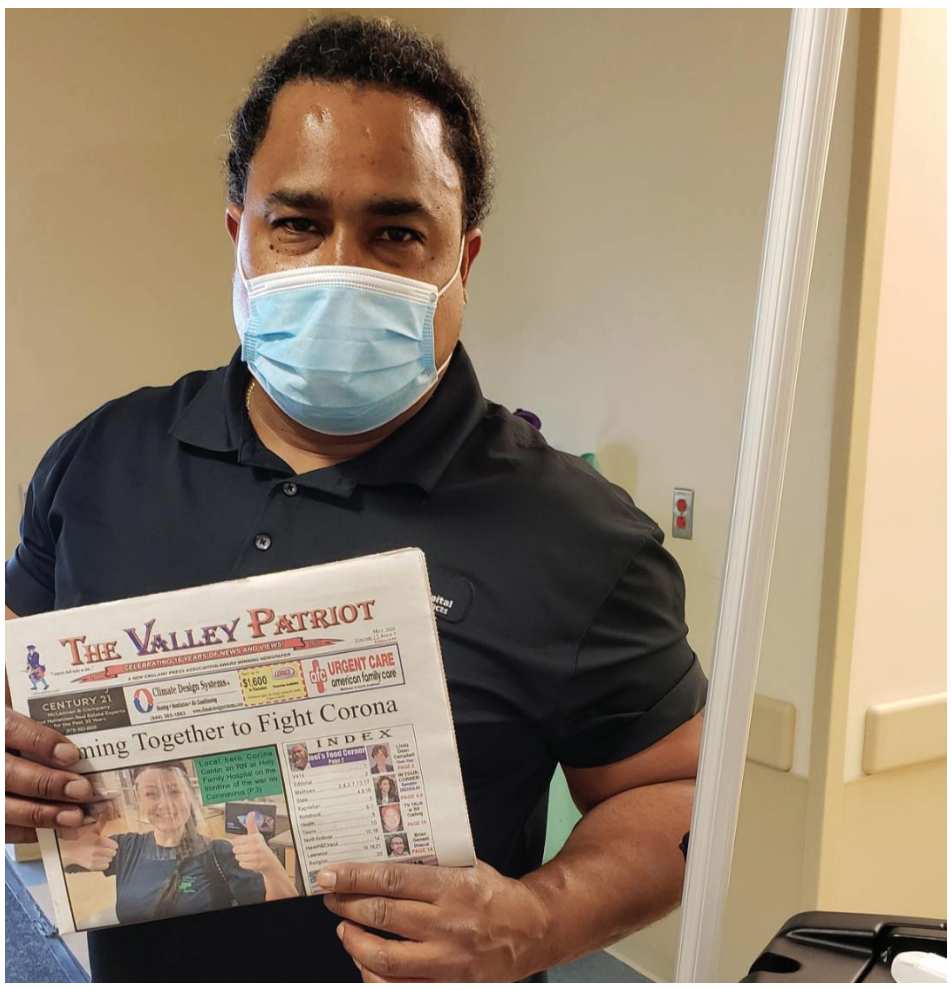


Isaac Santiago with environmental services at Holy Family Hospital with his copy of last month's The Valley Patriot with his coworker Carina Canton on the front page.

# HERO: FROM PAGE 1

if to say, what are we getting into?

After a few days in country, I was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division in Chu Lai, where I met up with my platoon. The Hueys, (Bell UH-1 Iroquois Helicopter, 7,000+ were deployed to Vietnam) would drop us out in the field, and after three weeks on patrol, pick us back up and we would have a week back at the fire base. There at the base, we would kick back and relax for a week, then head back out again. After nine months I was fortunate to get transferred and assigned to a mechanized unit with Americal Division's 11th Brigade. Our APC, or another word for armored personnel carrier, was fitted with 81 MM mortar rounds, base plate, and tube. Along with the 81MM on the APC, we had one .50 Caliber and two M60 machine guns, one on the left and one on the right. My position was on the left side. My year dragged along, broken up with a one-week R&R (Rest and Relaxation) in Australia. I extended my tour in Vietnam for 30 days, because the Army gave soldiers an option to extend their tour in Vietnam. If a soldier had less than 150 days left to serve on their two-year commitment, the Army would let you out early as an incentive for extending your tour in Vietnam. So, I took that chance, and have to say it was not the best choice at the time, but I wanted to get back home. Looking back, I was fortunate to return and today I am proud that I served. I was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 60- device, and the National Defense Medal.

When I returned, I was able to use the GI Bill, and was accepted into a four-year electrical apprenticeship program, with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union in IBEW Local 99 in Providence R.I. When I became a journeyman, I transferred to IBEW Local 103 in Boston and received my master's license. Thirty-five years later I was able to retire, and now living in Maine with my wife Regina, and my service dog Flik. I also have two wonderful daughters, three grandsons and thankful for the blessings I have, it is a long way from Woodstock to Maine!

Woodstock and Vietnam, direct from a primary source, priceless information to be preserved for generations!

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call 603-518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC!

*John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 23 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com.* ◊

# NOTEBOOOK: FROM 7

a helpful tool for residents to connect with health care resources and providers. It is free for Massachusetts residents and uses the latest COVID-19 guidance from both the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Please visit the new Health Web App to learn more and check out this tool.

The Manufacturing Emergency Response Team has been created. Companies can apply for grants through an online form for equipment, materials, supplies, workforce training and other needs.

Nursing Home Resource Line

A new Nursing Home Family Resource Line has been established to connect family members of nursing home and rest home residents with the information and resources they need. The line is staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week. Family members can call this line at (617) 660-5399 ◊

PHASE II FOR LAWRENCE

Beginning June 15, 2020, Steps for Phase II reopening in the City of Lawrence:

A. Establishments that are currently licensed to serve food and alcohol outdoors may begin service only in the outdoor areas that are currently licensed or permitted.

a. Establishments shall register their business with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

b. Establishments shall complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan when registering their business with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

c. Establishments shall follow the "MA Safety Standards for Restaurants" and "MA COVID-19 Checklist for Restaurants" for the commencement of Phase 2 of the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan.

d. Establishments shall follow the safety protocols established by the Local Board of Health.

B. Establishments that are currently licensed to serve food and alcohol outdoors but would like to expand their service to additional outdoor areas that are not currently licensed.

a. Establishments shall register their business with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

b. Establishments shall complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan when registering their business with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

c. Establishments shall apply for a "Temporary Permit: Extension to Patio and Outdoor Area" with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

d. Establishments shall submit a detailed plan describing the type of service with proposed outdoor floor plan when applying for a "Temporary Permit: Extension to Patio and Outdoor Area" with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

e. Establishments shall follow the "MA Safety Standards for Restaurants" and "MA COVID-19 Checklist for Restaurants" for the commencement of Phase 2 of the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan.

f. Establishments shall follow the safety protocols established by the Local Board of Health.

C. Establishments that are not currently licensed to serve food and alcohol outdoors but would like to expand their service outdoors.

a. Establishments shall register their business with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

b. Establishments shall complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan when registering their business with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

c. Establishments shall apply for a "Temporary Permit: Extension to Patio and Outdoor Area" with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

d. Establishments shall submit a detailed plan describing the type of service with proposed outdoor floor plan when applying for a "Temporary Permit: Extension to Patio and Outdoor Area" with the City of Lawrence by using the Citizenserve Online Portal.

e. Establishments shall follow the "MA Safety Standards for Restaurants" and "MA COVID-19 Checklist for Restaurants" for the commencement of Phase 2 of the-Commonwealth's Reopening Plan.

f. Establishments shall follow the safety protocols established by the Local Board of Health.

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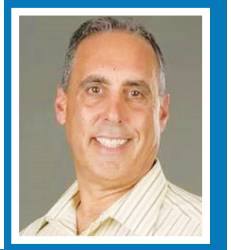
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## TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

# 'Upload'

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Amazon's latest series 'Upload' is a charming and endearing futuristic comedy series about the afterlife from Greg Daniels, the man who adapted 'The Office' for American audiences.

'Upload' is set in 2033 and centers on a man named Nathan Brown (Robbie Amell) who is killed in an accident of a self-driving car, and uploaded to a digital afterlife. Nathan doesn't die immediately though. At the hospital he has to decide whether to attempt to repair his damaged body, or have his consciousness uploaded to a pay-to-enter virtual heaven called Lakeview. Lakeview, is the top tier of heavens, and is designed like a New England hunting lodge in perpetual autumn.

Lakeview isn't all fun and games though. Not everyone there is totally happy. Almost immediately upon arriving Nathan contemplates suicide. Then we see other clients of Lakeview including a child who died at 11 and is stuck at that age years after he should have gone through puberty. We also see the "have nots" of Lakeview. A group called the 2 Gigs. They are only allowed 2 gigs of data each month. Based on what actions they take, their data is used up, unlike the "haves" of Lakeview who basically have unlimited data. Lakeview is beautiful and luxurious, but full of rules and restrictions, making Nathan's new home more like a prison than paradise.

Each resident of Lakeview has an 'angel.' Angels monitor the afterlife activities of dozens of their clients. If they're in need of any kind of advice or guidance, all they have to do is say "Angel!" and just like that their angel appears.

Nathan's angel is Nora, played wonderfully by Andy Allo. Nathan and Nora have an instant connection when they meet which grows deeper and more complicated as the story develops. Nathan and Nora's relationship is essential to the series, and Amell and Allo have great chemistry.

As the series progresses, the story becomes a little more serious. Turning from comedy to a heartwarming romance, and a suspenseful whodunit. Was Nathan's death really an accident? Can Nora and her client Nathan have more than a regular angel-client relationship?

'Upload' sparkles with great writing, and great performances. Amell is charming as Nathan, but the real highlight of this series is Allo. Her performance as Nora is so beautiful and heart-melting, and this is a star making role for her.

The series even has some sharp points to make about income inequality and, bravely for an Amazon show, the increasing digital dominance of our world. While 'Upload' does have some dramatic moments, it never takes itself too seriously, and watching a TV show right now about a character who feels confined and helpless and trapped – in these troubled days when many of us share those same feelings provides a nice level of comfort and escapism.

'Upload' has already been renewed for a second season and is available to stream on Amazon Prime.

*If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.* ◊

## DIZOGLIO: FROM PAGE 4

"Due to the shutdown and need for social distancing, people are flocking online for the bulk of their purchases and the online giants like Amazon are thriving," said DiZoglio.

"Many of these online sales, however, are sending our Massachusetts purchasing dollars to out-of-state companies who happen to be established or connected enough to have access to advertising and the ability for online sales. During a time when much of our small business community is literally prohibited from making in-person sales, retail giants like Walmart continue to be able to make both in-person and online sales."

Following their favorable committee report, both bills will now advance to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means for further review. ◊

# Our Hope and Trust is Not in 4 Walls!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

As our country begins the process of reopening, now more than ever, Pastors of our local churches need our prayers. They need the wisdom from God on how and of moving forward in reopening their buildings of worship. They need our support and not our judgment or condemnation. They do not need us to be their judge and jury. They need our love and understanding!

There have been many changes to what church looks like, but one thing is for sure and that is Jesus has continued to remain the same for he is the same yesterday, today and forever! The message of the Church has remained the same but the method of proclaiming that message has taken on different looks. I am sure that you have heard by now the quote, "church buildings are closed, but the Church remains open"!

I am like many Christians who can't wait for our local Houses of Worship to be reopened. To be with our fellow believers in the faith, to be able to hug. But this process cannot be rushed. I rejoice with those who have opened following the guidelines and restrictions that have been given by the authorities and rejoice with those who are still in waiting. This is why we need to stay vigilant in prayer for our local Pastors so that they can gather all the information from the medical and political officials, but in the end, make their decisions based on Godly Wisdom.

With all this being said, God is still sovereign! God knows what He is doing in this season. The virus isn't His weapon of mass destruction! He didn't want this for us.

But He is not going to waste this time either. The world has been shaken and The Church of Jesus Christ has been moved outside of its 4 walls. More people have been attending Church online than when buildings were opened! So, what is this telling us? Just maybe we should not be putting our HOPE and TRUST in 4 walls?

Our hope as Christians should be in Christ's return to gather us together. 1 Peter 1:3-5 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Our HOPE is very much alive today! God has our backs; He is most definitely on our side! The Bible tells us that God has delivered us from wrath that is to come as we read in 1 Thessalonians 1:10, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." As Christians, our future is all set and until then we just keep our eyes on Jesus! See what it says in Titus 2:13 says, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" We get to be a part of the wonderful story of Jesus that God is writing and in the end, we win!!! Praise God!

Likewise, our Trust should be in God at all times as King Davis said in Psalms 62:7-8, "In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." There are many voices speaking to us now about this pandemic, we listen, but in the end, we do what Psalms 118:8-9, tells us "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes." We take the time to listen to our local and state authorities, stay vigilant to what we are asked to do until that great moment where Jesus splits the clouds to bring us home. Our Hope and Trust isn't in 4 walls, but let's keep moving forward with our heads held high and with a humble spirit sharing the beauty of Jesus to this lost, dying world.

God Bless you all,
Peter Larocque ◊
peterlarocque@hotmail.com

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**BENEATH THE SURFACE**

# From Russia to Black Lives – the Left's Playbook

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT MORAITY COLUMNIST

In 2016, after decades of the culture of death and leftist narrative piped into our minds through the media and academia, the reign of the Left as culture molders was threatened by the election of Donald Trump. They knew they had someone who wouldn't cower to the narrative, and had to take him down before he nominated enough Supreme Court justices to overturn Roe.

Under Trump, Gorsich and Kavanaugh have been appointed. With Judge Roberts being a wild card, the party of death knows the Court is one sane judge away from their fortress being seriously weakened. With Ginsberg's health failing they knew they had to take down the president.

For two years straight it was, as Jan Brady might say, Russia, Russia, Russia. That didn't work out, so they turned to another plot – a phone call Trump made with the president of Ukraine, making a deal as he always does. While that got them a House impeachment, and made them feel good, it did nothing to stop or oust the president.

As the 2020 election season neared and RGB still hanging in there despite physical setbacks, the plan shifted to the next election. After disposing of Bernie Sanders for being too blatant and propping up Sleepy Joe Biden, China gave them a gift – the Wuhan virus – tailor made to destroy the economy and bring unrest to the people. If they played their cards right, with Democrat governors shutting down states indefinitely while placing infected people in nursing homes with the elderly, with 24-7 help from the Marxist media the death count and frustration level will be blamed on Trump. After all, people usually vote for the challenger when they aren't feeling good about themselves and tend to vote for the incumbent when the economy is good.

After several weeks of shutdown, Trump encouraged governors to open their states, and the economy started to come back. Panic for the Left: Bad timing. The misery index peaked too soon before the election. But, then came the tragedy of George Floyd.

Nobody can make light of Mr. Floyd's death. The facts will be uncovered during the murder trial, but what the camera showed us looked brutal and unnecessary. Yet, as Rahm Emanuel quoting Winston Churchill once said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste."

For months, because of Coronavirus lockdowns, dying people have been made to die alone in hospitals and hospices, denied last rites and the presence of family members. Public health requirements, we were told, simply could not be relaxed: No exceptions, not even to support and comfort the dying. Now, however, some of the very same politicians and health professionals who insisted on that rigorous policy are supporting mass demonstrations that, according to them, would pose a much greater threat to public health and safety. Yet, despite the hypocrisy, Phase 5 begins: Racial unrest.

Racism exists: Since we left Eden in a fallen state, many 'isms exist, and will do so until the last day. But overwhelmingly most people aren't racist. We all mourn Floyd's death as we do every injustice. We all want police to use their authority well. We all want people of every ethnicity to realize their potential. Is there anyone who doesn't believe black lives matter? Homicide statistics alone seem to indicate that too many black people don't think they matter.

Is the media doing any anyone any favors by showing us nightly looting, burning of cars and churches, like they did in Baltimore a few years back? Does that help race relations?

Regardless, what is the end or purpose of these demonstrations? MLK's purpose was clear: Civil laws must change to be in line with natural law. This is the same message of Aquinas and the Church. The purpose of today's demonstrations and riots is not as clear.

Nevertheless, as always, the only answer is found in God. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick of Texas recently said on Fox News that the real way to address racism is to accept Jesus Christ. Although the 'progressive' media will trash him for not 'progressing' past God, he is right. Two points the world does not understand are critical here: 1) The effects of original and personal sin on our nature taints each individual with a tendency toward selfishness and evil, which only grace – the divine life of God – can heal and elevate. 2) "You cannot love your fellow man if you don't love God," Patrick stated in the interview. Even though the world will vehemently dispute this since it knows not what 'love' or 'good' means anymore, he again is right.

The "peace and love" movement of the 1960s and the progressive movement of today, like Communism and Nazism before them, fail miserably because of their attempt to love neighbor without loving God. It is a proven recipe for disaster. Black lives matter because every human life has the unfathomable dignity of being the image and likeness of God. Without accepting this, I fear this latest cry for social justice will bear little fruit.

*Paul is talk host of Beneath the Surface video and radio podcasts, teaches college philosophy and theology, is a staff writer for Church Militant, and a singer-songwriter-musician. Check out Paul's website at Paulmurano.com. Email him at PJDM@aol.com*

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**SUE PIAZZA'S BOOK CORNER**

# Hidden Passions: Kamboj Princess Rukmani

by Summerita Rhayne
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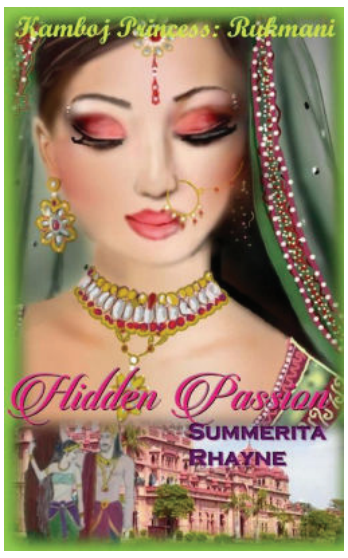
The story is set in India, in the Early Middle Ages, before societal norms restricted women.




War sets the stage as the introduction to the story. The Kamboj Family was among the several clans that lost to Samrat Deveshwaraya, the king of the many lands.

Resentful, at first, at her father's lands being controlled by the Samrat, Rajkumari soon realizes that King Devesh is unlike any royal she has known.

Royals had considered it the norm to treat the farmers with disdain. Deveshwaraya had been a farmer before becoming king. He helped usher in a new way of thinking that no one was entitled. He planned to hold all the royals accountable for their behavior.

Rajkumari, the youngest in the Kamboj royal family, finds that politics and the king's low birth status, now competed with love and happiness. As a result of his low status her family is against their daughter having any relationship with the Samrat, the king.

Many novels are pat, there is a formula and the reader can deduce, from the genre and characters, how the story line will end. With this book I was pleasantly surprised; I had no idea how the story would be resolved, the mark of a well thought out plot and the writer's ability.

Limited characters do not suffer from the plot line. I am so tired of reading books that have so many characters that I need a scorecard to keep them sorted.

This is the best book I've ever read where, with basically two characters, the story holds up. This author's ability to weave a coherent tale is really remarkable. I will certainly be reading more of this author. And, I would recommend others to do the same.

Though the author gave vivid descriptions of what the characters looked like and what they wore, words like uttariya, kanuchuki, and kayaband, were foreign to me. So, after reading the book I subsequently Googled the clothing. Beautiful and interesting. Doing so added depth to this reader's experience.

There were a couple of awkward sentences, or typos, but they really did not impact the story much. Example: "He sounded like her he was flirting …"

Perfect for summer reading at the beach or winter reading during a snow storm. The story keeps the reader hooked until the end.

For anyone looking for something different I would highly recommend reading this book.

*Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. She can be found at susanpiazzaauthor.com Her newly released book, a historical fiction "A Bird Call That Isn't" can be found on Amazon at: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0829MHLRX You can follow her progress on: Facebook: "A Bird Call That Isn't launch" for more info on this book and the next in this series.* ◊

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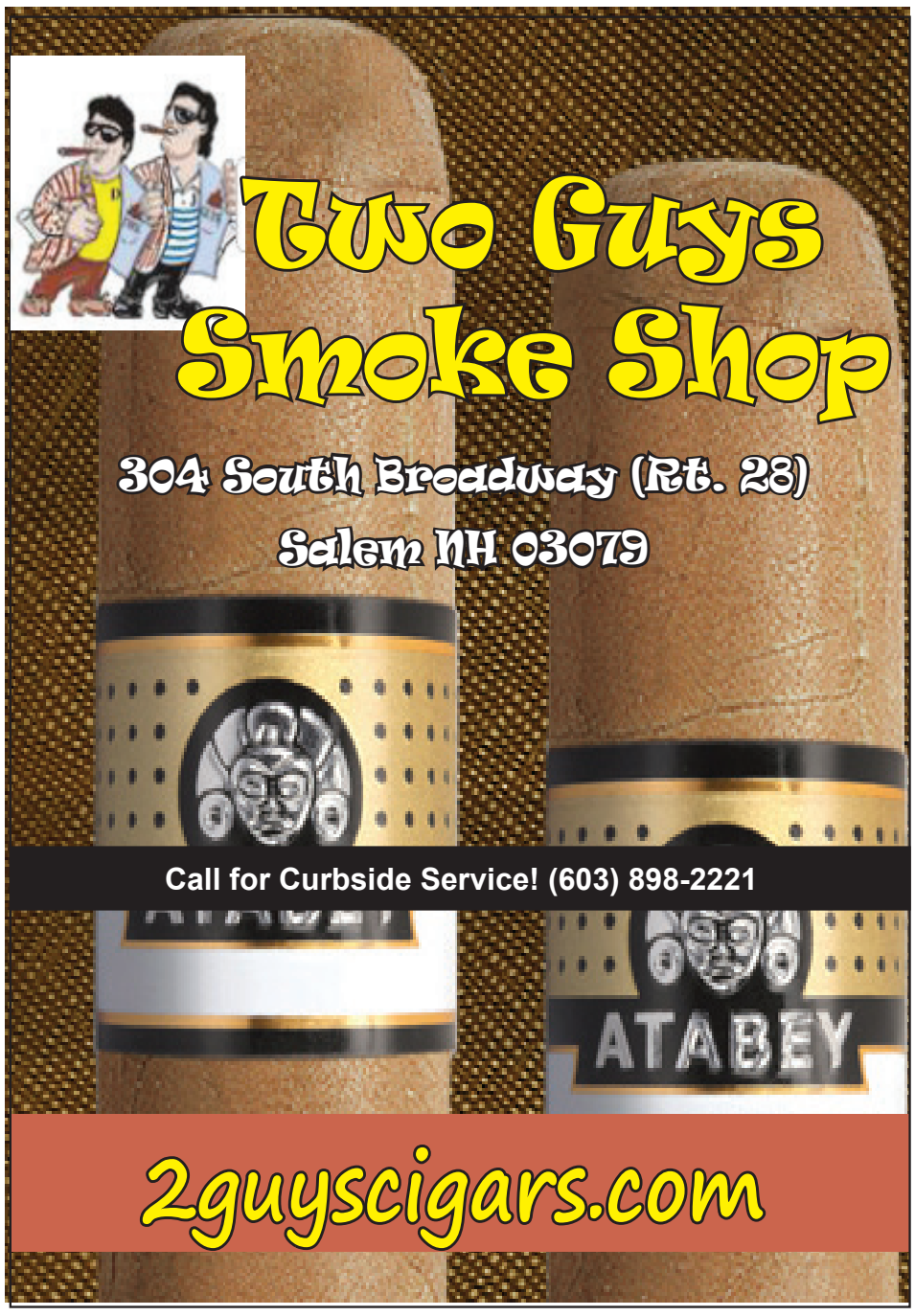

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